

**Type locality and taxonomic status of *Saltator plumbiceps*  
"Baird, MS." Lawrence, 1867 (Aves: Passeriformes: Cardinalidae)**

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*Abstract.*—Due to an error in the published type locality for *Saltator plumbiceps* "Baird, MS." Lawrence, 1867, this name has long been considered a synonym of *S. coerulescens vigorsii* Gray. It is, in fact, an older available name for the subspecies currently known as *S. coerulescens richardsoni* van Rossem. Van Rossem's *richardsoni* thus becomes a junior objective synonym of Lawrence's *plumbiceps*.

The populations of the Grayish Saltator, *Saltator coerulescens* Vieillot, inhabiting the Pacific slope of Mexico were originally known as *Saltator plumbiceps* "Baird, MS." Lawrence, 1867. In Lawrence's original description, USNM 29372 was designated as the holotype, with Mazatlan, Mexico indicated as its locality. This name was applied to birds ranging from Sinaloa to Oaxaca (Ridgway 1901), and can still be found on labels of USNM specimens collected prior to 1910.

Van Rossem (1931) discovered an older name applicable to this Pacific coast form, *Saltator vigorsii* G. R. Gray, 1844 (a renaming of preoccupied *Saltator rufiventris* Vigors, 1839, type locality unknown), and *plumbiceps* became a synonym of *S. coerulescens vigorsii* Gray (Hellmayr 1938). When this taxon was split into northern and southern forms (van Rossem 1938), the type locality of *vigorsii* (the northern form) was restricted to Mazatlan. This action retained *plumbiceps* as a synonym of *vigorsii*, with the southern form being named *Saltator grandis richardsoni* van Rossem, 1938, type locality Plains of Colima, Colima, Mexico (holotype BM 1894.7.1.1180). These two subspecies are still recognized as *S. coerulescens vigorsii* Gray, ranging from Sinaloa to northern Jalisco, and *S. coerulescens richardsoni* van Rossem, ranging

from central Jalisco to western Oaxaca (Paynter & Storer 1970).

Although Lawrence (1867) published the locality of USNM 29372 as Mazatlan, Mexico, there is no evidence to support this assertion. The specimen is an adult male collected by John Xantus (field number 53) in January 1863. His original field catalog, the original specimen label, and the museum ledger entry all indicate "Plains of Colima" as the locality. Deignan (1961) made note of Lawrence's error, but did not mention the taxonomic consequences. Clearly, Lawrence's earlier name applies to van Rossem's southern form *richardsoni*, which has the same type locality. Thus, the subspecies of Grayish Saltator that occurs from central Jalisco to western Oaxaca should be properly recognized as *S. coerulescens plumbiceps* Lawrence.

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